## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1        1 - 38. (Canceled).

1        39.    (Previously Presented)  A method of satisfying a resource request in a computer
2  system for configuring systems, the method comprising:
3        instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,
4                wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of
5                elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model
6                hierarchy;
7        (a) examining the configuration instance for one of the elements offering a resource in
8                response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one
9                of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a pool of resources;
10      (b) selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not been
11               previously consumed;
12      (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing
13               elements satisfy the resource request; and
14      (d) repeating (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource
15               request.

1        40.    (Canceled).

1        41.    (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [40] 39 wherein each element
2  offering a resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural
3  model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1        42.    (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [40] 39 wherein a plurality of the
2  resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1        43.    (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [40] 39 wherein one of the resources
2  in the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1    44.    (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [40] 39 wherein the element offering

2    the resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled

3    to provide the requested resource.


4    45.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of

5    multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element.


1    46.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 45 wherein each element offering a

2    resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in

3    the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.


1    47.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 45 wherein a plurality of the

2    resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.


1    48.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 45 wherein one of the resources

2    inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.


1    49.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 39 wherein the configuration

2    instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance

3    includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.


1    50.    (Previously Presented)  An apparatus for configuring systems comprising:

2        a processor;

3        a memory coupled to the processor;

4        a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a

5            structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;

6        a configuration engine, stored in the memory and executable by the processor, to satisfy a

7            resource request using a resource offered by one of the elements, wherein the

8            configuration engine includes code executable by the processor for:

9            instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;

10    (a) examining the configuration instance for one of the elements offering a

11      resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource

12      offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy

13      represents a pool of resources;

14    (b) selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not been

15      previously consumed;

16    (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no

17      existing elements satisfy the resource request; and

18    (d) repeating step (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the

19      resource request.

1  51. (Canceled).

1  52. (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ <u>apparatus</u> of claim ~~51~~ <u>50</u> wherein each

2 element offering a resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the

3 structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1  53. (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ <u>apparatus</u> of claim ~~51~~ <u>50</u> wherein a plurality

2 of the resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1  54. (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ <u>apparatus</u> of claim ~~51~~ <u>50</u> wherein one of the

2 resources in the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1  55. (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ <u>apparatus</u> of claim ~~51~~ <u>50</u> wherein the element

2 offering the resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is

3 pooled to provide the requested resource.

4  56. (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ <u>apparatus</u> of claim ~~51~~ <u>50</u> wherein the

5 combination of multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other

6 element

1    57.    (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ apparatus of claim 50 wherein each element

2    offering a resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural

3    superior in the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.


1    58.    (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ apparatus of claim 57 wherein a plurality of

2    the resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.


1    59.    (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ apparatus of claim 57 wherein one of the

2    resources inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.


1    60.    (Currently Amended)  The ~~method~~ apparatus of claim 50 wherein the

2    configuration instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration

3    instance includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.


1    61.    (Previously Presented)  An article of manufacture comprising code encoded

2    therein and executable by a processor to cause the processor to:

3          instantiate in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,

4               wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of

5               elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model

6               hierarchy;

7          (a) examine the configuration instance for one of the elements offering a resource in

8               response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one

9               of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a pool of resources;

10        (b) select the element when the resource offered by the element has not been previously

11              consumed;

12        (c) select a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing elements

13              satisfy the resource request; and

14        (d) repeat (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource

15              request.

1       62.    (Previously Presented)  An apparatus for satisfying a resource request in a

2  computer system for configuring systems using a resource comprising a combination of

3  resources comprising:

4        a processor;

5        a memory coupled to the processor;

6        a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a

7                structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;

8        means for defining a structural model hierarchy and a plurality of resources offered by

9                elements in the structural model hierarchy;

10      means for instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;

11      (a) means for examining the configuration instance for one of the elements offering a

12               resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by

13               at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a pool of

14               resources;

15      (b) means for selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not

16               been previously consumed;

17      (c) means for selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no

18               existing elements satisfy the resource request; and

19      (d) means for causing (a) through (d) to search for another element to satisfy the resource

20               request when the element selection does not satisfy the resource request.


1       63.    (New)  The article of manufacture of claim 61 wherein each element offering a

2  resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural model

3  hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.


1       64.    (New)  The article of manufacture of claim 61 wherein a plurality of the

2  resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.


1       65.    (New)  The article of manufacture of claim 61 wherein one of the resources in the

2  pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

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1      66.    (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61 wherein the element offering the

2    resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to

3    provide the requested resource.

1      67.    (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61 wherein the combination of

5    multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element

1      68.    (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61 wherein each element offering a

2    resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in

3    the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1      69.    (New) The article of manufacture of claim 68 wherein a plurality of the resources

2    inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.

1      70.    (New) The article of manufacture of claim 68 wherein one of the resources

2    inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.

1      71.    (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61 wherein the configuration instance

2    is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance includes an

3    existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.